

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Behavioral Health Council
Wednesday
October 25, 2023

Present: Kim Cooper, Mary Monnat, Danielle Berner, Jennifer Yonker, Karen James, Stephanie Rose, Dave Mowry, Carol Greenough, Colin McCoy, Eric Schmidt, Laura Vences, Sean Fields

Absent: Marcia Hille, Francesca Sinapi, Rebecca Jones, Larysa Thomas, Steven Youngs

Staff: Nick Ocon, BH Director; Ian May, BH Program Manager; Kathy Prenevost, Addictions Supervisor; Theodora Gill, Administrative Specialist II; Aika Fallstrom, Program Specialist

Guests: Sgt. David Bonn, Sally Reid, Rep. Lisa Reynolds, Sgt. Holly Greener

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Program Updates:

CMHP (Community Mental Health Program)

- We are waiting on the amended intergovernmental agreement. We are hoping to get that next month (November) so that this contract can be extended to cover 18 months.
- The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will be passing along a COLA to behavioral health providers.
- The Association of Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) has agreed to ask that Aid & Assist funding to be kept flat. If not, the funding will decrease for programs.
 - \$6 Million will go through the CCBHC for peer navigation services.
- Our office is working in partnership with Transcending Hope to open Noble House as a hub for supportive housing and other Oregon Department of Human Services.

CCO (Coordinated Care Organizations)

- We received funding for a jail liaison position for 60 clients
 - They will work with clients in jail and 90 days post-release
 - They will also be working with clients that are presumptive membership* for Health Share (CareOregon).
 - *clients lose OHP while incarcerated, but once they are released will get OHP and be assigned to Health Share of Oregon as their CCO.

Addictions

- Center for Addictions Triage and Treatment (CATT) Update
 - There were two different tours done recently with legislators (9 representatives, senators, and their staff)
 - Throughout the tours, the workforce conversation was a constant theme.
 - The contractors are on board, but has been challenging to find sub-contractors.
 - There is a request for proposal (RFP) out for a provider to provide the services in the peer drop-in center (which will be in the Elam Young Building).
- Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) Update
 - Washington County has been working with a group of 19 providers throughout our county to help provide SUD services and to expand the current network.
 - More information can be found here:
<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/addictions/bhrn>

Children's Behavioral Health Experiences

- Dave Mowry provided an overview of youth's experiences in schools and how NAMI has been able to help.
- They have noted that post-pandemic the numbers of children exhibiting anxiety, depression, and a sense of dread has increased by about 20%.
 - Trauma is a major factor in the increase as well as social media.
- He mentioned the positive impact that adults can have on the youth even by spreading small messages of hope.
 - "I look forward to seeing you when I get home."
 - "See you at school tomorrow."

Children's Behavioral Health in Oregon

- State Representative Lisa Reynolds (District 34) joined us at our meeting to discuss where/what the state legislation will be looking at in 2024 and what the current focus is for her.
- The biggest issue is workforce and those working with children. It is hard to find culturally competent and culturally specific providers for children.
- Rep. Reynolds mentioned that the University of Oregon's Ballmer Institute is working with bachelors level students to add a certification so that they are able to graduate and enter the workforce immediately as SEL (social emotional learning) supports.
- There was also a discussion on how we can increase opportunities for para-professionals and those without degrees.
- 2024 Legislative Focus will be on Substance Use Disorder Services (SUD) and providers.
- A bill that Rep. Reynolds is hoping will come to fruition has been dubbed "Momnibus" as they are hoping this bill will add resources for mothers-to-be and mothers of young children. (The targeted age range will be pre-natal to Age 1).
- Some needs that were elevated to Rep. Reynolds during our discussions included:
 - The need for sustainable funding for programs. One-time funding only creates administrative burden for providers.
 - The need for parity with commercial insurances.
 - To close the gap between medical and BH parity.
- Jennifer from Juveniles Services added that youth violence has increased post-pandemic.

- Here is the contact information for Rep. Reynolds:
 - Email: Rep.LisaReynolds@oregonlegislature.gov
 - www.oregonlegislature.gov/reynolds
 - Phone: 503-986-1434
 - Mailing Address: 900 Court St. NE H-485 Salem, OR 97301

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

The minutes for September have been approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aika Fallstrom, Program Specialist